



GOVERNOR JOHN ENGLER PORTRAIT UNVEILING



GOVERNOR JOHN ENGLER PORTRAIT UNVEILING

Program

Introductions

Chief Justice Clifford Taylor, Master of Ceremonies

Welcome

Governor Jennifer Granholm

Remarks

Lieutenant Governor Connie Binsfeld

Lieutenant Governor Dick Posthumus

Introduction of Artist

Eugene A. Gargaro, Jr.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Detroit Institute of Arts

Comments by the Artist

Nelson Shanks

Remarks

Governor John Engler

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Portrait Unveiling

Margaret, Hannah and Madeleine Engler

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Reception



The Governor

John Mathias Engler was Michigan's 46th governor. His tenure, from 1991 till 2003, was exceeded by only one chief executive in state history. During his twelve years in office, Michigan's economy improved dramatically and its public schools experienced far-reaching reform.

John Engler was born in Mount Pleasant, Michigan, on October 12, 1948, the son of Agnes and Matt, a Beal City farmer and cattleman. After attending Catholic and public schools, he went to Michigan State University, where he graduated with a degree in agricultural economics. It was in 1970, during his senior year in college, that he first ran for a seat in the state House of Representatives. By dint of smart campaigning and hard work, he beat a powerful incumbent to become the then-youngest member ever elected to the Michigan legislature; he was 22 years old.

In 1978, after being elected to the House four times, John Engler challenged and defeated another incumbent in the state Senate, where he served for 12 years and was majority leader from 1984-1990. Attending law school while serving in the Senate, he earned a J.D. from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

In 1990, at the age of 42, he was elected governor of the Great Lakes State. He would be re-elected in landslides in 1994 and 1998. Indeed, over a 32-year career in public office, the Isabella County Republican never lost an election; he won 20 primary and general elections in all.

A common sense Midwestern conservative, Governor Engler signed 32 tax cuts into law, saving taxpayers nearly \$32 billion. The state inheritance tax and capital gains taxes were eliminated. Personal exemptions for children, seniors, and the disabled were increased. The personal income tax was reduced to its lowest level in a quarter century. But it was the property tax cuts and education reform package known as Proposal A that Governor Engler would count among his proudest achievements. Passed overwhelmingly by voters in 1994, Proposal A earned praise from around the nation.

In all, Governor Engler's economic policies helped generate more than 800,000 jobs in Michigan, cutting the state's unemployment rate from over 9 percent the year he took office to 3.4 percent in 2000 – the lowest annual level ever recorded. For an unprecedented five years in a row, Michigan led the nation with the most new factories and expansion projects.

In 2001, John Engler became America's most senior governor and was elected chairman of the National Governors Association. Shortly after retiring from public office on January 1, 2003, he joined EDS as president of State and Local Government. In 2004, he became president and CEO of the National Association of Manufacturers headquartered in Washington, DC. He currently lives in northern Virginia with his wife Michelle and their daughters, Hannah, Margaret, and Madeleine.



The Artist

Dr. Nelson Shanks is one of the most renowned portrait artists in the world. He has painted many distinguished individuals, among them Pope John Paul II, Princess Diana of Wales, Lady Margaret Thatcher, tenor Luciano Pavarotti, and Presidents Ronald Reagan and William Jefferson Clinton.

One of the most gifted painters of his generation, Dr. Shanks has been characterized as a “humanistic realist”; students of fine art will see strong elements of the Baroque in his work.

His paintings have been exhibited in leading museums and galleries, including the National Academy of Design, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Hirschl & Adler Galleries. A special exhibition of his work was held at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. His paintings can be found in eminent collections throughout Europe and the United States.

Dr. Shanks is also a much sought-after teacher. A distinguished visiting professor of Fine Arts at George Washington University in Washington, DC, he has also taught at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the National Academy of Design, and numerous other distinguished institutions. In 2002, he founded Studio Incamminati in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he teaches promising students about art, aesthetics, and culture.

Dr. Shanks has traveled and studied extensively throughout Europe. In Florence he was a student of Pietro Annigoni and at l'Accademia d'Belle Arte. In the U.S. he studied in New York City at the National Academy of Design and The Art Student League, and in the Midwest at the Kansas City Art Institute with Wilbur Niewald. In 1993 Arcadia University awarded him a Ph.D. in Fine Arts.

Few artists in America today are as gifted, capable, and passionate as Dr. Nelson Shanks. Visitors to the State Capitol are fortunate to have the opportunity to encounter his work: the John Engler portrait is his first commissioned piece to be displayed in the Rotunda.





Portrait Committee

Richard A. Manoogian

Eugene A. Gargaro, Jr.

Sharon Rothwell

Lucille S. Taylor

Richard D. McLellan

Writer

Gleaves Whitney

Cornerstone Foundation Board of Directors

Kimbal R. Smith, III

James K. Haveman, Jr.

Matthew Godlewski

Rhonda Grant

Richard D. McLellan



The Portrait

More than 400 hours in the making, the official portrait of Governor John Engler is rich in symbols. The fiscal conservatism he championed is symbolized by the Adam Smith necktie. The Republican Party he strengthened is represented by the brass elephant and bust of Abraham Lincoln. The blueprint he holds alludes to the restoration of the State Capitol, a National Historic Landmark whose preservation is one of the crowning achievements of his 32 years in public office.

Governor Engler, a man of action, is also a lover of books. The eight volumes in the painting point to the range of his thought. His right hand rests on a stack that includes Bruce Catton's magisterial history, *Michigan*; Gleaves Whitney's authorized biography, *John Engler – The Man, the Leader, and the Legacy*; Martin Anderson's account of Ronald Reagan's presidency, *Revolution*; George H. W. Bush's personal correspondence, *All the Best, George Bush*; and Margaret Thatcher's memoirs, *The Downing Street Years*. In the front stack are George Weigel's biography of Pope John Paul II, *His Holiness* (Governor Engler is a Catholic); George Weeks's comprehensive biography of 46 Michigan governors, *Stewards of the State*; and the minutes of a Michigan constitutional convention, which symbolizes Engler's passionate devotion to the Constitution and the rule of law.

Other objects in the painting open a window onto Governor Engler's personal life. Most significant is the small, framed photograph on the stack of books. It shows First Lady Michelle Engler and the couple's triplet daughters – Madeleine, Hannah, and Margaret – who were born in 1994. The flower in the background, the yellow rose of Texas, symbolizes Michelle's home state.

The rose motif is picked up in the painting's frame, which was also designed by Dr. Nelson Shanks.

The painting's eight faces, eight books, and six symbolic objects give a finely detailed cross-section of a peerless leader and a dedicated public servant.

The portrait of Governor John Engler joins those of Michigan's other governors in the State Capitol, 14 of which are in the Rotunda's "Gallery of the Governors." In recent times, all such paintings have been privately commissioned – they were not created at taxpayers' expense. They are displayed to inspire citizens and to encourage reflection on the heritage of the Great Lakes State.

